

What is claimed is:

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1. A shaped article comprising a continuous first polymer phase having dispersed therein microbeads of a cross-linked second polymer, which microbeads are bordered by void space, wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived are selected to provide microbeads that are both low-yellowing and thermally stable.

2. The article of claim 1 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived contain less than 15 wt% styrenic monomers.

3. The article of claim 2 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived are substantially free of styrenic monomers.

4. The article of claim 3 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived are selected from the group consisting of acrylic, methacrylic, and allylic monomers.

5. The article of claim 4 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived are selected from the group consisting of acrylic and methacrylic monomers.

6. The article of claim 5 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived comprise acrylic monomers.

7. The article of claim 6 wherein the acrylic monomers are selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol diacrylate, trimethylol propane triacrylate, and dipropylene glycol diacrylate.

8. The article of claim 5 wherein the microbeads comprise a co-polymer derived from (a) methylmethacrylate and 1,6-hexanediol diacrylate or (b) methylmethacrylate and trimethylol propane triacrylate.

9. The article of claim 1 wherein the microbeads have a size in the range of 0.2 to 30 micrometers.

10. The article of claim 9 wherein the microbeads have a size in the range of 0.5 to 5 micrometers.

11. The article of claim 1 wherein the microbeads are present in an amount of about 5-50% by weight based on the weight of said first polymer.

12. The article of claim 1 wherein said void space occupies about 2-60% by volume of said shaped article.

13. The article of claim 1 wherein the microbeads are coated with a slip agent.

14. The article of claim 1 wherein the first polymer is predominantly a polyester or polypropylene polymer.

15. The article of claim 14 wherein the first polymer is predominantly a polyester polymer.

16. The article of claim 15 wherein the first polymer is polyethyleneterephthalate.

17. The article of claim 1 wherein the article is a dye diffusion thermal transfer dye receiving sheet.

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18. The article of claim 1 wherein the second polymer is derived from monomers comprising more than 20 wt % of crosslinking monomer.

19. The article of claim 18 wherein the monomers comprise methylmethacrylate.

20. The article of claim 1 wherein the Δb^* for one week simulated high intensity sunlight (50 Klux) testing is not more than 0.2.

21. A shaped article comprising a continuous first polymer phase having dispersed therein microbeads of a cross-linked second polymer, which microbeads are bordered by void space, wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived comprise not more than 15 wt% styrenic monomer.

22. The article of claim 21 wherein the second polymer are substantially free of styrenic monomers.

23. The article of claim 21 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived are selected from the group consisting of acrylic, methacrylic, and allylic monomers.

24. The article of claim 23 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived are selected from the group consisting of acrylic and methacrylic monomers.

25. The article of claim 24 wherein the monomers from which the second polymer is derived comprise acrylic monomers.

26. The article of claim 25 wherein the acrylic polymers from which the second polymer is derived are selected from methyl acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol diacrylate, trimethylol propane triacrylate, and dipropylene glycol diacrylate.

27. The article of claim 26 wherein the microbeads comprise a polymer derived from (a) methylmethacrylate and 1,6-hexanediol diacrylate or (b) methylmethacrylate and trimethylol propane triacrylate.

28. The article of claim 21 wherein the microbeads have a size in the range of 0.2 to 30 micrometers.

29. The article of claim 21 wherein the microbeads have a size in the range of 0.5 to 5 micrometers.

30. The article of claim 21 wherein the microbeads are present in an amount of about 5-50% by weight based on the weight of said first polymer.

31. The article of claim 21 wherein said void space occupies about 2-60% by volume of said shaped article.

32. The article of claim 21 wherein the microbeads are coated with a slip agent.

33. The article of claim 21 wherein the first polymer is predominantly a polyester or polypropylene polymer.

34. The article of claim 21 wherein the first polymer is predominantly a polyester polymer.

35. The article of claim 34 wherein the first polymer is polyethylene terephthalate.

36. The article of claim 21 wherein the article is a dye diffusion thermal transfer dye receiving sheet.

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37. The article of claim 21 wherein the second polymer is derived from monomers comprising more than 20 wt % of crosslinking monomer.

38. The article of claim 37 wherein the monomers comprise methylmethacrylate.

39. The article of claim 1 wherein the shaped article is in the shape of a fiber, a rod, a tube, a sheet, a film, or a container.

40. The article of claim 39 wherein the shaped article is coated with a slip agent comprising silica or alumina.

41. A method of forming an article of claim 1 comprising dispersing the microbeads of said second polymer in said continuous first polymer phase and thereafter stretching the article to cause the formation of voids bordering the microbeads.

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